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Maryland Awards Grant to Improve Response to College Sexual Assault

Baltimore, MD – The Governor’s Office of Crime Control & Prevention has awarded a \$71,288 grant to the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) to fund its Sexual Assault on College Campus program. The program has two goals: to develop Maryland-specific training, curricula and technical assistance materials, and create model policies and protocols to ensure that victims of sexual assault are given accurate information about their legal options in Maryland’s criminal justice system.

This past spring, the Maryland General Assembly passed and Governor Hogan signed into law [House Bill 571](#), which requires colleges to pursue agreements with local rape crisis centers, MCASA, or both, for the purpose of developing a working relationship between the rape crisis centers and the college campus they serve. In addition, Maryland colleges are required to develop agreements with their local law enforcement entities and college law enforcement entities to set in place a system to preserve evidence of sexual assault so cases can be pursued in court.

“MCASA will use this funding to help Maryland colleges and universities improve their response to sexual assault survivors,” said Lisae Jordan, Executive Director and Counsel for MCASA. “One in five women experience sexual assault during their time at college, and we are grateful that GOCCP is supporting efforts to change this.”

“Our mission is to find every resource available to help and restore victims of crime in Maryland,” said Christopher B. Shank, Executive Director of GOCCP. “Working to stop sexual violence on Maryland college campuses is a priority in our goal to prevent violence against women everywhere in our state.”

Grant funding will provide salary support, operating expenses and travel for an attorney who will provide technical assistance, training and policy development to colleges and victim service providers in Maryland to enhance their response to sexual assault on college campuses. Last year, a GOCCP grant paid for the printing and distribution of 15,000 copies of a 12-page booklet on college sexual assault that was distributed to 55 colleges and universities across Maryland.

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